



Opening Doors, Changing Lives

DIVISION OF MENTAL RETARDATION SERVICES

Vol. 6, No. 3

May/June 2002

Kellogg Accepts Deputy Commissioner Post

Richard E. Kellogg, who has an extensive background in the mental health/mental retardation field, was recently appointed Deputy Commissioner of Tennessee's Mental Retardation Services.

Kellogg came to the DMHDD because of challenges facing the MR system and the opportunity to assist the process of developing a system that meets the needs of individuals and their families. He would like it to be a system Tennessee can be proud of.

Kellogg feels there are many good people in the system and a lot of progress has been made, yet many structural, protections, and service and supports delivery challenges remain to be addressed. His short-range goal is to see the successful resolution of the various lawsuits the division faces and the development of plans of action that all stakeholders can agree upon.

Then, he feels we can work on the successful implementation of the

various plans of action. Kellogg also acknowledges that the successful implementation of goals depends on the mindset of those who actually carry out the many services in an organization.

Kellogg has had an extensive role in leadership positions throughout his career, most recently as Commissioner for Virginia's Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse. Prior to state government services, he was employed in the administration and development of community mental health, mental retardation, substance abuse, child/adolescent, and geriatric services at the local level for over 22 years.

His entry into this position has been educational, challenging and marked by meeting many good people and professionals, who care about having protected, high quality, effective and efficient services and



supports system focused on individuals and quality of life. Kellogg would like to aid this by developing effective and efficient systems of services and supports and nurturing a more positive work environment.

Developmental Center Volunteers Honored

Accepting the Volunteer Group of the Year Award for Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies was Karl Thomas, director of Sales and Marketing.



Ashley Miser accepts the Volunteer of the Year Award.



The Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities held its 13th Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon June 21, with volunteers from Greene Valley and Clover Bottom Developmental Center among the nominees for the highest awards.

The recognition event was held at Centerstone's Dede Wallace Center in Nashville with two of the top six awards going to Greene Valley volunteers. This year alone, volunteers gave over 30,000 hours of their own time to the facilities and the service recipients.

The **Volunteer Group of the Year Award** went to Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies in Gatlinburg. Management at the 115,000 square foot, 1.3 million-gallon aquarium has donated admissions to 400 service recipients and support staff from Greene Valley since April 2001. However the recognition of their generosity is not solely monetary. The caring manner in which individuals are treated by Ripley's staff is the greater value.

The **Volunteer of the Year Award** was presented to 8th Grader Ashley Miser. She enjoys it so much that at the end of her first day volunteering she wanted to spend the night. Since that first day in June 2000, Miser has assisted in the habilitation area of campus where she reads, assist in arts and crafts and other activities for almost 300 hours.

Other winners were Santa Mary Floyd of Knoxville, Volunteer of the Year; The Women in Mission of Una Baptist Church, Volunteer Spirit Award; Woodrow Nails of Bolivar, Helping Hand Award; and Commissioner's Award to the Bulletin Times in Bolivar.

Quote of the Day

"If you can't laugh at yourself, someone else is going to do it for you, and you're not going to enjoy it nearly as much."

Anonymous



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A publication of the
Division of
Mental Retardation
Services

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Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities,
Authorization No. 339393, 10,000 copies,
May 2002. This public document was
promulgated at a cost of \$.08 per copy.

Publications Available

The HOT SPOT newsletter can be found on the Division of Mental Retardation Services' web site at www.state.tn.us/mental/publicate.html.

This publication contains informational articles as well as those useful for training. Issues contain Mortality Alerts and information to prevent similar situations. Infection control and preventive measures may appear in an issue that allows for review and training on specific problems. Any new training available from the Nursing Department is also introduced.

For questions concerning HOT SPOT, contact Ruth Givens, Central



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Also, visit the site for back issues
of Opening Doors, Changing Lives
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News for future publications is greatly appreciated. Please send any information to Debbie Posey at the Division of Mental Retardation Services, 425 Fifth Avenue North, 5th Floor North, Cordell Hull Building, Nashville, TN 37243 or e-mail Debbie.Posey@state.tn.us.

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